



TOWN OF CHESTER

NEWSLETTER

April-June

Spring 2020

www.chestervt.gov

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's office is closed to the public at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff is still in the office and available by phone or email. Please use the drop box at the Town Hall for payments. The due date for dog licenses has been extended to May 1, 2020. If you would like to register your dog at this time it can be done by mail. Please mail a check, proof of rabies, and an explanation to:

Town of Chester
PO Box 370
Chester, VT 05143

Currently, the Springfield Transfer Station is still operational. Please call the Town Office if you need Transfer Station stickers or punch cards. These things can be mailed to you. The Town Office staff is doing their best to keep things as easy as possible for people. Thank you for your patience and understanding, and please stay safe.

Contact information:

Town Clerk:
deborah.aldrich@chestervt.gov

Assistant Town Clerk:
amie.obrien@chestervt.gov

Phone: (802) 875-2173

Town Manager's Message

All I can say is, Wow! What a start to the year!

I first want to say Thank you so much to all the community members that have shown me so much support in my new position as Town Manager for Chester. What an honor for me! Please be assured that I will strive to serve this community to the best of my abilities.

I know that at the forefront of all our minds are financial concerns. Please know that I am working with town staff to manage this year's budget and expenses in a way that is most advantageous for our community, being mindful of our taxpayers. We understand that there are many unknowns for the upcoming months and will be working hard to continue getting things accomplished while keeping expenses down.

For our businesses, I strongly encourage you to reach out to Bob Flint at Springfield Regional Development Corporation (885-3061) for assistance with any of the new loan programs that are being rolled out both from the state and federal governments. Information regarding COVID-19 is on the town's website at www.chestervt.gov. We have been working to make sure that this is up to date information.

There are many local organizations and groups that are going to great lengths to serve our community members in ways that we have never seen before. Thank you doesn't begin to express my gratitude for what you are doing. You are the very definition of what makes Chester a fabulous place to live! If you are in need or know someone who is, please contact me and we will get you connected with these amazing organizations.

As we are charting these new waters in our community, and our world really, please know that I am available to you for whatever needs may arise. We are so fortunate here in Chester to have town staff that are vested in our community, know our members and stand by ready to serve you to the best of our ability. Please just reach out.

Stay safe. Stay connected. God Bless!

Julie S. Hance
Town Manager

Ambulance Corner

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) provided by cdc.gov

If you have the following Signs & Symptoms:

- Stay home when you are sick
- Call your health care provider's office in advance of a visit
- Limit movement in the community
- Limit visitors

Take Steps for Those at Higher Risk

Know what additional measures those at [higher risk](#) and who are vulnerable should take.

Protect Yourself & Family

Implement [steps to prevent illness](#) (e.g., stay home when sick, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, clean frequently touched surfaces daily).

Create a Household Plan

Create a [household plan](#) of action in case of illness in the household or disruption of daily activities due to COVID-19 in the community.

- Consider 2-week supply of prescription and over the counter medications, food and other essentials. Know how to get food delivered if possible.
- Establish ways to communicate with others (e.g., family, friends, co-workers).
- Establish plans to telework, what to do about childcare needs, how to adapt to cancellation of events.

Stay Informed call 211 or go to cdc.gov

Cleaning Tips

To disinfect:

Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work. Use disinfectants appropriate for the surface.

Options include:

Diluting your household bleach.

To make a bleach solution, mix:

5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water

OR

4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date.

Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.

Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.

Alcohol solutions.

Ensure solution has at least 70% alcohol.

Other common EPA-registered household disinfectants.

Products with [EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens](#) claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).

Whiting Library

Whiting Library will reopen just as soon as we can! During this time the Wi-Fi is open, and there are links to free on-line offerings on our website. Go to whitinglibrary.org to access Listen Up Vermont for free eBooks and audio books. Also, through our website you may enjoy Vermont on-line library, Learning Express and Universal Class.

We are all waiting to see when social distancing becomes social gatherings again. Our staff is working on programs, purchasing new items for the collection, keeping current on library events, and missing all of you.

During the month of April, we will be transitioning to a new library Director. Deirdre Doran will be taking the helm as Sharon Tanzer pursues whatever retirement has to offer.

Please contact the Library by phone at 875-2277, or email whitinglibrary1@gmail.com.

Chester Plant Sale May 29-31

The annual Chester Plant Sale at St. Luke's Church, the gray church at 313 Main Street near the Village Green, has become a marvelous opportunity to purchase a wide selection of proven, large, healthy, hardy plants at bargain prices. Well-groomed plants with helpful labels will make garden additions easy, and experienced gardeners will be on hand to give advice about planting and garden design. As of this writing, the sale is optimistically scheduled to run on Friday May 29 and Saturday May 30, 9-3 both days, and on Sunday May 31, 1-3. The later timing of the annual event allows for larger and more attractive plants – all organized by kind and growing needs on the side lawn of the church. If you have perennials on your property that you would like to contribute or if you have plants to suggest or need more information, please contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.

Chester Historic Preservation Committee

Fire District No. 2 (Yosemite Firehouse). Already listed on Vermont's State Register of Historic Places, Chester's historic firehouse was accepted onto the National Register of Historic Places on March 16, 2020. The present plan is to have minimal repairs made to the building's slate roof in 2020 and to work out – with CHPC and State and local officials – a final layout for the future museum and adjacent parking so that planning, specific improvements, and grant applications for the improvements and rehabilitation of the building can move forward. Meanwhile CHPC continues to look for residents who have a real interest in working toward the future museum and those who have photos of the previous Fire Chiefs and information about them, as well as other memorabilia and equipment to honor the firemen who have protected and continue to protect the Town and its citizens. Please contact Committee Chair Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or at lbwillisct@comcast.net with information.



Think Hope and Spring with Chester Townscape!

In this strange and unpredictable time, when everyone is looking toward the future and anticipating a return to the more normal country life we love, one thing Chester businesses and residents can count on – now as in the last six years – is for Chester Townscape to brighten the town with seasonal plantings. First to appear this spring will be an increased number of daffodils along the cemetery wall and then the bulbs, plants, and flowering shrubs at the new gardens CT planted last year at the Info Booth and Village Green Gazebo. Next will come the blossoming planters and eye-catching bridge boxes. Whether one is walking or driving through town, Chester should look alive and welcoming.



One of six bridge boxes on Veteran's Bridge, Route 103 north

Chester Townscape's Annual Flowerpot Orders

In April many previous supporters of Chester Townscape's famous large flowerpots with pre-planted annuals will receive the annual order form. People may choose to have their previous private pots replanted or to support ones re-planted in the many public places that CT has decorated over the years. These floral pots, bridge boxes, and flowers along the Brookside Cemetery wall always make a reliable colorful display well into the fall and welcome residents and visitors to Chester's public spaces. For a 2020 Planter Order Form, to make a contribution, or to help with watering, please contact Tory Spater at 802-363-3360 or Margie Straub at 802-875-1140.

News from the Chester-Andover Family Center

The Chester-Andover Family Center has put new procedures in place regarding how we carry out our mission to make a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance, supplemental, nutritional food, affordable clothing and household goods.

Beginning immediately, our Thrift Shop will be closed until further notice.

Our Food Shelf will continue to provide food on Thursdays and Fridays for our Food Shelf recipients. For safety reasons, we are putting in place new procedures for food distribution. Recipients may pick up a pre-packed box of food in our parking lot, during regular Food Shelf hours; Thursdays from 1-5 and Fridays from 10-2.

With the Thrift Shop closed and Fundraising Events cancelled we need the continued support of the community to maintain our ability to purchase food weekly. We are committed to keeping our Food Shelf stocked to meet the needs of current and potential Food Shelf recipients.

Monetary donations limit in-person contact and allow us to purchase high quality, nutritional food in bulk. Please consider contributing.

During these challenging times please call the center at 802-875-3236 if you have any questions, concerns or special needs. Leave a message. Your call will be returned. We are committed to providing or helping locate resources for those in our community who may need help. We will post updated information on the Food Shelf porch Bulletin Board as well as on Facebook and our website.

<http://chester-andoverfamilycenter.org/donations/>



Daffodils along the cemetery wall



One of many kinds of daylilies for sale last year at St. Luke's 2019 Plant Sale



St. Luke's 2019 plant sale in action

Lister Appraisal Information

When property owners receive their new "Change in Appraisal" notifications this year the instructions for grievance will be different than usual. Due to the Covid-19 virus health threat we will not be having face to face hearings. All grievances must be in writing and submitted via mail or email by the close of grievance day and postmarked that day. Those wishing to support their written appeal with verbal testimony will be given the opportunity via telephone or other electronic means if possible. So read the instructions for grievance carefully because things may change after the writing of this info.

Town of Chester Pool Information

Chester/Andover residents (a resident is someone who lives in Chester or Andover or pays property taxes in the towns of Chester or Andover) are free for pool use throughout the summer during hours of operation. An ID must be shown to the lifeguard before entering the pool. The daily rate for a non-resident is \$4 per person. Non-resident family season passes can be purchased at the Chester Town Office for \$75 from now until July 16th; if a seasons pass is purchased after July 16th, the cost will be \$50. **Children under the age of 10 MUST be accompanied by an adult.

****POOL HOURS ** Subject to change**

Monday: Open Swim 12pm – 7pm, Adult Swim 5pm – 6pm
Tuesday-Friday: Open Swim 12pm – 8pm, Adult Swim 5pm – 6pm
Saturday: Open Swim 12pm – 7pm, Adult Swim 5pm – 6pm
Sunday: Open Swim 12pm-5pm, Adult Swim 5pm – 6pm



Adult Swim: Every 15 minutes before the hour. *NO adult swim the last hour.
Adult Swim June 29th - August 7th: 9am - 9:55am

Swim Lessons Monday-Friday 10am – 12pm

Levels 1-3 \$30
Levels 4-6 \$25 (First week of dates below only)

Session 1: June 29th - July 10th
Session 2: July 6th - July 17th
Session 3: July 20th - July 31st



****SPECIAL NIGHTS****: TBA - Friday night swims for ages 12-15 at the Town Pool on dates that will be announced. On these nights the pool will close to the public at 7:30pm. Admission will be \$2 per child. There will be music & food!! Please be on the lookout for these dates.

Pool/Pavilion Rental: The pool & pavilion can be rented for birthday parties or other functions. The cost is \$75 for a 2-hour time slot. Times-Saturday/Sundays during non-operating hours. Please call the Chester Recreation Dept. 875-2173 (Town Hall) or 875-3603 (Pool) to check availability.

Pavilion Rental: The pavilion can be rented for \$25 for a 2-hour time slot. Please call the Chester Recreation Dept. 875-2173 (Town Hall) or 875-3603 (Pool) to check availability.

Matthew A. McCarthy, Recreation Director
Town of Chester Vermont
(802) 875-3603 or (802) 875-2173
www.chestervt.gov/recreation
Join us on Facebook: Chester, VT Recreation Dept.

